

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated May 4, 2004, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, claims 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, for a lack of antecedent basis for claim 3. In addition, claims 10 and 12-20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,146. The Examiner did find, however, that claims 1 and 9 were directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent that they are maintained. First, with respect to the rejection of claim 3, the Examiner will note that this claim has been amended to now depend from claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 3-8, are therefore respectfully requested.

Next, with respect to the double patenting rejection, while Applicants continue to traverse the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have nonetheless enclosed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claims 10 and 12-20 are respectfully requested.

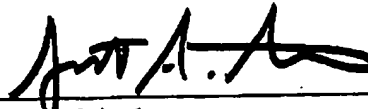
In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits

Page 7 of 8
Serial No. 09/314,324
Amendment and Response dated May 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2004
IBM Docket RO999023
WH&E IBM/91
K:\ibm\91\Amendment and Response-TD to 5-4-04 OA.wpd

are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

19 MAY 2004
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Scott A. Stinebruner
Reg. No. 38,323
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.
2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Telephone: (513) 241-2324
Facsimile: (513) 241-6234

Page 8 of 8
Serial No. 09/314,324
Amendment and Response dated May 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2004
IBM Docket RO999023
WH&E IBM/91
K:\ibm\91\Amendment and Response-TD to 3-4-04 OA.wpd